1	2	3
12.	Allahabad	04
13.	Azamgarh	04
14.	Moradabad	04
15.	Mirzapur	04
16.	Saharanpur	03
17.	Varanasi	04
	TOTAL:	74

Increasing organic production

1192. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the changing scenario of increased health consciousness among people, the demand for the organic produce and its products is increasing; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase the organic production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To promote organic farming in the country, Government has approved a Central Sector Plan Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores from October, 2004 for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming during 10th Plan period with the following main components:—

(i) Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.

(ii) Capacity building through service providers.

(iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like fruits and vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for vermiculture.

(iv) Training, field demonstration, promotion and market development.

Besides, under National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP),

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Agency (APEDA) is facilitating certification of the Organic Produce for export purpose.

Micro irrigation in Andhra Pradesh

1193. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acres of land proposed to be brought under micro irrigation during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the total acres of land, so far, brought under the scheme in the State;

(c) whether Government would increase the financial assistance from the present 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the cost of the system looking at the pathetic situation in which farming is done and the farming community is surviving there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) An area of 2.48 lakh hectare is proposed to be brought under micro-irrigation by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) So far, an area of 1.63 lakh hectare has been brought under micro irrigation in the State.

(c) There is no proposal to increase the financial assistance from 50% to 70% of the cost of the system.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government has recently increased the financial assistance from the existing level of 25 percent of 50 percent of the cost of the system by launching the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Micro irrigation" during Jan '2006.